

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 10, 2009. Claims 14 to 17 are pending in the application, of which Claims 14, 16 and 17 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 14 to 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over US 2004/0021905 (Holmstead) in view of US 2003/0086098 (Sesek). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

The present claims concern an information processing apparatus that caches and manages image data downloaded from a server device for use in processing subsequent print jobs. According to one aspect of the invention, image data downloaded as image data to be printed, from the server device to the information processing apparatus, and transmitted to the printer, is cached in cache memory. After caching, a cache list of the image data cached in cache memory is stored. Image data to be printed is then designated among image data stored in the server device. A print list of the image data to be printed is also stored. Upon storing the print list, the cache list and the print list are compared. Image data which is in the print list, but not in the cache list, is downloaded from the server device and transmitted to the printer. In addition, image data, which is in both the cache list and the print list, is identified and transmitted from the cache memory to the printer. Furthermore, image data which is in the cache list, but not in the print list, is deleted from the cache memory before the next image data to be printed is designated, so as to prevent the image data which was not successively selected as image data to be printed from remaining in the cache memory.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 14 is directed to an information processing apparatus capable of communicating with a server device and a

printer. The apparatus includes a cache memory constructed to cache image data downloaded as image data to be printed, from the server device to the information processing apparatus, and transmitted to the printer; a first storage unit constructed to store a cache list of the image data cached in the cache memory; a designation unit constructed to designate image data to be printed among image data stored in the server device; a second storage unit constructed to store a print list of the image data to be printed; a comparison unit constructed to compare the cache list and the print list; a transmission unit constructed to download the image data which is in the print list but not in the cache list from the server device and transmit the downloaded image data to the printer, and further constructed to identify image data which is in both the print list and the cache list and transmit the identified image data from the cache memory to the printer, and a deletion unit constructed to delete from the cache memory the image data which is in the cache list but not in the print list before the next image data to be printed is designated by the designation unit, so as to prevent the image data which was not successively selected as image data to be printed from remaining in the cache memory.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references, namely Holmstead and Seseek, whether considered alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of Claims 14, 16 and 17. In particular, the cited references, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least the feature of deleting from the cache memory the image data which is in the cache list but not in the print list before the next image data to be printed is designated, so as to prevent the image data which was not successively selected as image data to be printed from remaining in the cache memory.

In contrast to the present claims, Holmstead discloses a system that temporarily stores print job elements in a local memory to be used in future print jobs. Holmstead also

discloses the removal of print job elements stored in the local memory after a predetermined period of time has elapsed. In other words, a device in accordance with Holmstead will not delete print job elements in the local memory until a predetermined period of time has passed. In effect, this accumulation may lead to a considerable waste of resources in situations where a large number of print jobs are processed during a lengthy predetermined period of time. This waste of resources is exacerbated in situations when the stored print job elements are never re-used in subsequent print jobs, where resources may be wasted in terms of memory space and increased search time in connection with locating desired print job elements.

In addition, Sesek merely discloses caching of print-ready files of web pages, where an existing print-ready file of a web page is replaced by an updated print-ready file of the same web page whenever that web page has been modified. However, Sesek fails to disclose anything that, when combined with Holmstead, would have resulted in the feature of deleting from the cache memory the image data which is in the cache list but not in the print list before the next image data to be printed is designated, so as to prevent the image data which was not successively selected as image data to be printed from remaining in the cache memory.

In light of the deficiencies of Holmstead and Sesek as discussed above, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 14 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended Claims 16 and 17 are directed to a method and a computer-readable medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the apparatus of Claim 14. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 16 and 17 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each dependent claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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